course is designed to train working executives in international business management;

(ii) A regional centre of 11 FT is being set-up at Kolkata where a two-year full time MBA(IB) course is proposed to be launched in 2006. Other courses will also follow;

(iii) IIFT is also offering a number of short-term courses to meet specific demands;

(iv) MFT also plans to start on-line Management Development Programmes to cover a large spectrum of people interested in international business management;

(v) The training centre has been established to cater to the needs of SMEs.

Loss to Indian exports due to Katrina

2285. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian export has suffered due to Hurricane Katrina in US when shipping companies refused to accept shipment to many US ports affected by Katrina; and

(b) the total estimate of loss suffered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No incidents of shipping companies refusing to accept shipments to a US port affected by Hurricane Katrina have come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to convert low yielding tea areas to high yielding ones

2286. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether two lakh hectares have been identified as low yielding areas for tea production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to make them high yielding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The normal economic age of tea bushes is 50 years, beyond which the productivity goes down. As per studies undertaken by the Tea Board, around 2,12,000 hectares of tea area have to be targeted for replantation/rejuvenation over the next 15 years. Government is examining ways and means of introducting a programme for massive replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The objective of this programme is to address the issue of ageing tea plantations which has resulted in a progressive reduction in yield and help in reviving the fortunes of the Indian tea industry in terms of increase-in yield, improvement in quality and in overall reduction in cost of production. The detailed costing and modalities of funding such a large programme, including the setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund, is under consideration.

Three-phase implementation of reforms to help manufacturing sector

2287. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion has been received by Government for three-phase implementation of reforms to help manufacturing sector to achieve international competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this calls for labour and tax reforms etc. and flexibility in the existing norms; and

(d) if so, action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flaws in data relating to exports and product classification

2288. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: